

LOUISE VERMILYA, UGLY AND SQUAT, DREW MEN BY MENTAL POWER AND SUBTLE FLATTERY

Woman Writer Says Secret of Vermilya's Fascination for Men of All Conditions and Ages Lies in Her Mentality.

By Eloise Mortimer.

Consider the loves of Louise Vermilya.

Fred Brinkamp, her first husband.

Charles Vermilya, her second husband.

Richard T. Smith, the railroad conductor, who was engaged to marry her when he died suddenly and mysteriously.

Arthur Bissonette, the policeman, for whom Mrs. Vermilya exercised so great a fascination that for her he gave up his country sweetheart, Lydia Rivard.

The Undertaker, Charles C. Boysen, who denies he ever was intimate with Mrs. Vermilya, but whose denial is given the lie by writing in Mrs. Vermilya's own hand.

And, last actor to appear in the moving drama that is the life of Louise Vermilya, **Jayson Ruppert**, railroad employe. Ruppert was a frequent visitor to the Vermilya "House of Death," up to the time he was taken suddenly ill and died.

In all the weird story of poison and sudden death that the arrest of Mrs. Vermilya has brought to light, nothing is more strange than the fascination this woman seems to have exercised

over men of all ages and all conditions.

And wherein lies that fascination?

Mrs. Vermilya is far from beautiful. She is short; her figure is almost stumpy. She has high cheek bones that give a look of coarseness to her face. Her hair is short and limply heavy. Her eyes are furtive, and seemingly without compelling power. Even her complexion is poor.

What quality was it that drew men to the side of Louise Vermilya, drew them to love and then to death?

I confess the answer to the riddle is beyond me.

Yet, perhaps, the answer lies in the woman's extraordinary mentality.

In this respect at least, Louise Vermilya is "different."

Take her letters. They are not the hurried scrawls of a woman, who writes without giving thought to the weight of her sentences. There is subtle flattery in almost every one of her letters to Thomas Bruington, the Peoria photographer, who thought to trap her by making love to her, and at last fell in love with her himself.

Read these sentences:

"I wish you could be here—with me. I have so much I want to tell you.

"I surely would enjoy having your sister call on me. Please remind her of it. Of course, I know